

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-10 RSC-01

CU-04 AGR-20 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03 CIEP-02

LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 IGA-02 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03

NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 SPM-01

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AMEMBASSY ROME

USUN NEW YORK 9843

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ALSO AID, (PHA AND PHA/POP)

PARIS FOR UNESCO USOECD

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SUBJ: PLANS FOR UN WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE

REF: GENEVA'S 5791

BEGIN SUMMARY. POPULATION COMMISSION IN ITS ROLE AS
PREPARATORY BODY FOR WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE
(WPC) RESOLVED AFTER MUCH DEBATE DRAFT PROVISIONAL
RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR WPC. REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS
PRIOR TO WPC APPROVED, BUT ON INFORMAL BASIS AND
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WITH NO REPORTS. ARRANGEMENTS IN BUCHAREST SEEM

SATISFACTORY WITH ROMANIANS EAGER AND COOPERATIVE HOSTS. PARALLEL ACTIVITIES ON SOMEWHAT LESS CERTAIN GROUND PARTLY BECAUSE OF LIMITED FUNDS OF NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS). BRAZILIANS AND SWEDES RELAXING SOME OF THEIR POSITIONS OR AT LEAST MORE WILLING RELAX WITH U.S. DELEGATION. CHINESE ORIGINAL INTERVENTION AS OBSERVER ON COMMISSION SIMILAR TO COMMENTS AT ECAFE'S MARCH MEETING IN TOKYO. EUROPEAN DELEGATIONS CONCERNED OVER SIMPLISTIC TREATMENT OF ZERO POPULATION GROWTH STATEMENT IN DRAFT PLAN OF ACTION, BUT WEST GERMAN OBSERVER SAID HIS GOVERNMENT DID NOT VIEW THEIR OWN COUNTRY'S RECENT FALL BELOW THE REPLACEMENT LEVEL WITH ALARM. MEXICAN OBSERVER AMBASSADOR COSTA REPORTED ON RECENT MOVES TOWARD POPULATION POLICY IN MEXICO. END SUMMARY

1. MAJOR HASSLES DEVELOPED OVER THREE OF DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR WPC (E/CN.9/285), BUT ALL RESOLVED IN MANNER ACCEPTABLE TO U.S. RULE 14 WAS UN SECRETARIAT-INSPIRED ATTEMPT TO HAVE ALL "PROGRAM PROPOSALS" STATED IN TERMS OF UN "OBJECTIVES TO BE ACHIEVED"; U.S. OPPOSED AS UNDULY RESTRICTIVE AND PROPOSED AMENDMENT WHICH BRAZILIAN DELEGATION SOUGHT TO ALTER WITH EXTENSIVE AMENDMENTS INCLUDING REMOVING WORD "ACTION" FROM WORLD POPULATION PLAN OF ACTION. U.K. OBJECTED TO ANY RULE 14 AS IT WENT BEYOND THE RULES FOR THE WPC ITSELF. U.S. AND OTHERS IN WORKING GROUP ON RULES ACCEPTED THE U.K. POSITION; CARILLO-FLORES OBJECTED ONLY MILDLY IN PLENARY "OUT OF LOYALTY TO THE UN SECRETARIAT".

2. ROMANIANS AND BRAZILIANS JOINED FORCES TO TRY TO CHANGE RULE 31 TO PROVIDE FOR WPC DECISIONS BY CONSENSUS RATHER THAN TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY. DESPITE LEGAL OFFICER'S REPEATED ASSURANCE THAT CONSENSUS NEVER IN ANY UN RULES OF PROCEDURE (ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT OF WPC COULD USE TECHNIQUE WHEN AGREEABLE TO DELEGATIONS) AND PLEA FROM COMMISSION CHAIRMAN THAT CONSENSUS AMENDMENT BE WITHDRAWN, VOTE WAS NECESSARY. WEST EUROPEANS AND OTHERS, MOST AFRICANS AND JAPAN OPPOSED AMENDMENT WITH 12 VOTES; NINE VOTES SUPPORTED

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ROMANIAN-BRAZILIAN AMENDMENT INCLUDING LATIN AMERICAN DELEGATIONS, IRAN AND INDONESIA (PRESUMABLY BECAUSE OF THEIR FAMILIARITY WITH CONSENSUS TECHNIQUE IN ECAFE). USSR WAS ONE OF THREE DELEGATIONS ABSTAINING.

3. RULE 54 PROVIDED THAT SPECIALIZED AGENCIES INCLUDING THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY COULD PARTICIPATE IN WPC WITHOUT RIGHT TO VOTE. U.S. AND

OTHER DELEGATIONS CONCERNED THIS MIGHT BE CONSTRUED TO MEAN THAT UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF AND OTHER UN BODIES INVOLVED IN POPULATION WOULD NOT HAVE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE. LEGAL OFFICER AND WPC SECRETARIAT INSISTED NO PROBLEM EXISTED AS LATTER ORGANIZATIONS COVERED BY RULES 10 AND 11 IN THAT THEY WERE ALL PART OF CORPORATE BODY OF THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL. PRIMARILY DUE TO PERSISTENCE OF UNFPA DEPUTY DIRECTOR GILLE (WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM HIS FRIENDS) LANGUAGE EXPLICITLY "INCLUDING THE UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES" WAS ADOPTED. THE REVISED DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURES WILL GO TO ECOSOC FOR APPROVAL AT RESUMED SESSION WHICH MEANS POPULATION COMMISSION'S THIRD SPECIAL SESSION WILL NOT BE BURDENED WITH THIS TIME-CONSUMING AND TRICKY SUBJECT AGAIN. (COMMENT: U.S. DELEGATION TO ECOSOC SHOULD BE ALERT TO ATTEMPTS TO TAMPER WITH RULES RECOMMENDED BY COMMISSION FOR ECOSOC APPROVAL.)

4. SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL MEETINGS BEFORE WPC TO ENABLE GOVERNMENTS TO BECOME FAMILIAR WITH DOCUMENTATION INCLUDING WORLD POPULATION PLAN OF ACTION. CONCERN THAT THERE MAY NOT BE CONSULTATION AMONG INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES; SWEDEN PROPOSED AGAIN THAT ECE ORGANIZE SUCH A MEETING. TUNISIA OFFERED TO HOST AN AFRICAN REGIONAL MEETING. ECA REPRESENTATIVE SOM INDICATED THAT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY GARDINER MIGHT BE FAVORABLE EVEN THOUGH PLANS ALREADY MADE TO HOLD IN ADDIS ABABA (SOM INFORMED BY U.S. DELEGATION THAT GARDINER ON WASHINGTON VISIT STILL FAVORED ADDIS ABABA AS SITE; ALSO TOLD SOM IT WOULD BE MISTAKE TO MIX MEETING OF GOVERNMENT POLICY-MAKERS WITH AFRICAN DEMOGRAPHERS' MEETING ALREADY PLANNED FOR TUNISIA IN UNCLASSIFIED

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5. COMMISSION EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT SEVERAL OF MOST POPULOUS NATIONS HAVE NOT REPLIED TO SECOND INQUIRY AMONG NATIONS ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT. BRAZIL SAID THEY WOULD REPLY "WHEN READY"; ALSO SAID INTER-MINISTERIAL GROUP NOW WORKING ON POPULATION POLICY WHICH WILL BE EXPLICIT. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE URGED UN TO CODIFY RESPONSES TO SECOND INQUIRY. GOVERNMENTS WILL BE ASKED TO PROVIDE ONE-PAGE COUNTRY STATEMENT ON POPULATION POLICY BY FEBRUARY 15.

6. PHYSICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR WPC SEEM IN GOOD SHAPE; WPC SECRETARIAT AND GOVERNMENT OF ROMANIA CLEARLY GETTING ON WELL. ROMANIAN HEAD OF STATE WILL OPEN CONFERENCE. U.S. DELEGATION PRIVATELY ASKED ROMANIAN DELEGATION WHETHER THEIR HEAD OF STATE WOULD ALSO ENCOURAGE ALL COUNTRIES TO ATTEND CONFERENCE; THEY SAID THIS WAS UN CONFERENCE AND IT WOULD NOT BE PROPER UNCLASSIFIED

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FOR THEM TO DO SO. FIFTH DAY OF CONFERENCE FALLS ON ROMANIAN NATIONAL LIBERATION DAY TO WHICH THEY ADDED PARENTHETICALLY ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT WILL INVITE MANY STATES.

7. REPRESENTATIVE OF NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS) DESCRIBED EFFORTS TO OBTAIN WIDE PARTICIPATION IN "THE POPULATION TRIBUNE" WHICH WILL BE PRINCIPAL

ACTIVITY PARALLEL TO WPC. ARRANGEMENTS WITH GOVERNMENT OF ROMANIA (GOR) FOR HOLDING PRE-CONFERENCE YOUTH MEETING; CONTESTS AND TRAINING SESSIONS, AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES ARE STILL BEING WORKED OUT. THE TRIBUNE WOULD TRY AVOID DUPLICATION OF WPC PROGRAM; MIGHT INCLUDE EXCHANGES AMONG EXPERTS, LECTURES, DEBATES, AND PANEL DISCUSSIONS SUCH AS THE IMPACT OF POPULATION ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OR ISSUES CONFRONTING COUNTRIES APPROACHING POPULATION STABILIZATION. STRESSED THAT THESE TOPICS NOT FINAL AND THAT "POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIETIES" WHICH IS SUGGESTED OVERALL TOPIC FOR FORUM WOULD PERMIT DISCUSSION OF WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS. NEED FOR COMMUNICATION BETWEEN TRIBUNE AND WPC WAS ADDRESSED MOST SPECIFICALLY BY SWEDISH DELEGATE THAT ARRANGEMENTS IN 1972 FOR REPORTING BETWEEN ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE AND PARALLEL ACTIVITIES NOT ENTIRELY SATISFACTORY AND THAT EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN WPC AND TRIBUNE NECESSARY FOR SUCCESS OF BOTH.

8. INTERVENTIONS BY BRAZIL, CHINA, AND OTHERS INDICATES THAT POPULATION IS POLITICAL. (COPIES OF BRAZILIAN AND CHINESE STATEMENTS BEING SUBMITTED BY AIRGRAM.) BRAZIL, AFTER LENGTHY ATTACK ON ASSUMPTION OF NON-RENEWABILITY OF RENEWABLE RESOURCES, STATED: "... STATES SEEK "POWER" AS ONE OF THEIR VITAL CHARACTERISTICS OR, ONE MIGHT SAY, AS A CATEGORICAL IMPERATIVE ... POWER, BE IT POLITICAL, ECONOMIC OR MILITARY, DOES HAVE, AS ONE OF ITS NECESSARY INGREDIENTS -- EVEN THOUGH NOT A SUFFICIENT ONE -- A LARGE OR RELATIVELY LARGE POPULATION." THE CHINESE DELEGATION STATED: "WE HAVE LEARNT FROM OUR OWN EXPERIENCE THAT IT IS ERRONEOUS AND UNTRUTHFUL TO SAY THAT OVER-POPULATION IS THE MAIN CAUSE OF THE POVERTY AND BACK-UNCLASSIFIED

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WARDNESS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN ASIA, AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA AND THAT A POPULATION POLICY IS DECISIVE IN SOLVING THE PROBLEM OF POVERTY AND BACKWARDNESS." THE CHINESE ALSO STATED: "IN PUSHING THE POLICY OF BIRTH PLANNING, WE COMBINE STATE GUIDANCE WITH THE INITIATIVE OF THE MASSES THEMSELVES. PUBLICITY BY GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS AT ALL LEVELS IS CONVINCING MORE AND MORE PEOPLE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF BIRTH PLANNING, AND THEY ARE NOW PRACTISING IT OF THEIR OWN FREE WILL." THE CHINESE DELEGATION'S CONCLUDING COMMENT WAS THEIR INTEREST IN LEARNING FROM THE PEOPLE OF OTHER COUNTRIES.

9. AMBASSADOR CASTRO Y CASTRO FROM MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MEXICO, DESCRIBED HIS COUNTRY'S RECENTLY ADOPTED COMPREHENSIVE AND INTEGRATED NATIONAL POPULATION

POLICY THAT IS TO INCLUDE INTER-MINISTERIAL COOPERATION IN MANY FIELD IN ADDITION TO FAMILY PLANNING IN SOCIAL WELFARE.

10. WEST EUROPEAN DELEGATIONS SHOWED DISDAIN FOR SIMPLISTIC TREATMENT OF ZERO POPULATION GROWTH IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AS STATED IN DRAFT WORLD POPULATION PLAN OF ACTION. SOME OF THESE NATIONS SEEMED NERVOUS OVER ZPG PROSPECT, BUT FRG OBSERVER STATED BOLDLY THAT GERMANY WAS NOT ALARMED THAT THEIR ABSOLUTE POPULATION SIZE IS EXPECTED TO FALL AT LEAST TO 1962 LEVEL.

11. NUMEROUS PRIVATE MEETINGS WITH DELEGATIONS OF SWEDEN, BRAZIL, ROMANIA, USSR, AND OTHERS, AND UP-COMING PRIVATE LUNCHEON FOR THE PRC DELEGATION ARE LAYING A GOOD FOUNDATION FOR FURTHER COOPERATION. THE SWEDISH REPRESENTATIVE EVEN AGREED THAT ANY INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES WITHIN THE UN POPULATION FAMILY SHOULD NOT BE DEALT WITH AT THE WPC; BUT AMBASSADOR THORSON ADDED "FOLLOWING THE WPC."
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